

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-07 L-03 MC-02 IGA-02

AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

ACDA-19 PRS-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /116 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4169

INFO DOD WASHDC

CHIEF USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2566

DOD FOR ISA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN: F-4'S
AND MANPOWER TRAINING

REF: A) JIDDA 2362; (B) STATE 117652#

SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON PRINCE SULTAN, WED, JUN 20,
AMB. INFORMED PRINCE THAT USG PREPARED TO PROVIDE
MODA WITH TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS ON F-4 OR TO DEMONSTRATE
AIRCRAFT IN UNITED STATES TO TEAM OF MODA EXPERTS.
HOWEVER, SINCE MANPOWER ASPECT WAS OF ESSENCE, USG WORKING
TO ASSEMBLE TEAM OF FIRST CLASS EXPERTS WHO COULD ASSIST
MODA IN ESSENTIAL TASK OF LAYING OUT POLICY FOR MINISTRY'S
MANY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. PRINCE SULTAN WELCOMED EVIDENCE
OF CONTINUED US SALES INTEREST, INCLUDING PROPOSAL FOR
F-4 DEMONSTRATIONS. SULTAN APPEARED ENTHUSIASTIC OVER
IDEA OF MANPOWER MISSION WHICH HE HOPES WILL ARRIVE AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE; HE PROMISED MINISTRY'S FULL SUPPORT
FOR WORK OF TEAM, AND WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT MANPOWER GOALS
THEY ESTABLISH WOULD BE MET. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING CALL BY AMB. AND DCM ON MODA PRINCE SULTAN WED, JUNE 20, AMB DREW PRINCE'S ATTENTION TO USG'S HAVING AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL LIMITED NUMBER OF F-4 PHANTOMS TO SAG. IT WAS AMB'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS NEWS HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO HRH AND TO KING FAISAL DURING THEIR STAY IN GENEVA. AMB ADDED THAT HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INFORM PRINCE THAT USG WAS PREPARED ALSO TO FURNISH SAG ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DETAILS ABOUT F-4, TO PROVIDE IT WITH SERVICES OF USG TECHNICAL TEAM (INCLUDING MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVES), OR TO ARRANGE DEMONSTRATION OF AIRCRAFT IN US FOR BENEFIT OF MODA REPRESENTATIVES.

2. AT SAME TIME AMB WISHED TO DRAW PRINCE'S ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF MOST FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF SAG'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING F-4: THIS WAS QUESTION OF MANPOWER. AMB NOTED THAT MODA WAS CURRENTLY EMBARKED UPON MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INVOLVING NAVY, F-5 " PEACE HAWK," AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIGHTINGS. MANPOWER DEMANDS OF WEAPONS SYSTEM SUCH AS F-4 WERE IN THEMSELVES PRODIGIOUS, AND IF THIS AIRCRAFT WERE IN ANY REALISTIC WAY TO BECOME INCORPORATED INTO RSAF, CONSIDERABLE MANPOWER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED. ACCORDINGLY, USG WAS ASSEMBLING A TOP- FLIGHT GROUP OF MANPOWER EXPERTS WHO WOULD DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM AND POLICY TO COVER MODA'S DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS. SUCH TEAM WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH MODA'S OWN EXPERTS, AND WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS COULD DO MUCH TO HELP ATTAIN OBJECTIVES HRH SOUGHT FOR SAUDI FORCES.

3. PRINCE SULTAN LISTENED TO AMB'S PRESENTATION WITH OBVIOUS PLEASURE. HE THEN SAID THAT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF OUR FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARDS F-4 SALES TO SAG WOULD PERSONALLY PLEASE KING FAISAL. SULTAN EXPLAINED THAT WHEN KING FIRST INFORMED IN GENEVA OF US WILLINGNESS TO SELL F-4'S, HE HAD REMARKED THAT HE HOPED AND EXPECTED USG WOULD NOT LET MATTERS STAND, BUT WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN F-4 SALE. SULTAN WELCOMED PROSPECT OF F-4 EXHIBITION, STATING THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN THAT F-4 WAS A SUPERB AIRCRAFT, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE USEFUL AND BENEFICIAL FOR RSAF'S EXPERTS TO BECOME

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PERSONALLY COGNIZANT WITH ITS PERFORMANCE.

4. SULTAN ALSO AFFIRMED IN STRONGEST TERMS HIS SUPPORT FOR DEPT'S MANPOWER PROPOSALS. HE SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS FULLY AWARE OF MAGNITUDE OF MANPOWER PROBLEMS BEFORE IT, AND FOR THIS REASON HE HOPED THAT A FIRST CLASS TEAM OF US EXPERTS COULD ARRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA SHORTLY.

PRINCE STRESSED THAT SAG WOULD SPARE NO PAINS TO MEET
WHAT CERTAIN TO BE EXACTING MANPOWER GOALS OF MODA' S
VARIOUS PROGRAMS- INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THE F-4.
SULTAN WAS MOREOVER CONFIDENT THAT HIS MINISTRY WOULD CONTINUE
TO BE ATTRACTIVE TO MANY OF THE KINGDOM' S YOUNG MEN AS
THEY GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE BOTH HERE AND ABROAD.

5. WHILE MANPOWER TEAM' S WORK WAS PROCEEDING, PRINCE HOPED
THAT USG WOULD PRESENT COMPLETE DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR
F-4 SALE INCLUDING TERMS OF PAYMENT,
KINDS OF TRAINING REQUIRED AND APPROXIMATE TIMES
OF DELIVERY.

6. AMB THANKED PRINCE SULTAN FOR HIS VIEWS AND
SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE SHORTLY INFORMATION ON COMPOSITION AND
APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL TIME OF US MANPOWER TEAM.
THACHER

NOTE BY OCT: # REFTEL APPARENTLY INCORRECT.

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